In the Claims

Please cancel claims 126 through 220 without prejudice and replace with the following new claims 221 through 238.

221. (New ) An oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA), comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and wherein the target gene is a mammalian gene.

222. (New ) The dsRNA of claim 221, having a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

223. (New ) The dsRNA of claim 221, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

224. (New ) The dsRNA of claim 221, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands.

225. (New ) The dsRNA of claim 224, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

226. (New ) A method for inhibiting the expression of a target gene in a mammalian cell, the method comprising:

(a) introducing into the cell an oligoribonucleotide having a double stranded structure (dsRNA), comprising two separate RNA strands, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene; wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and

(b) maintaining the cell produced in step (a) for a time sufficient to obtain degradation of an RNA transcript of the target gene, thereby inhibiting expression of the target gene in the cell.

227. (New ) The method of claim 226, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

228. (New ) The method of claim 226, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

229. (New ) The method of claim 226, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands.

230. (New ) The method of claim 226, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

231. (New ) The method of claim 226, wherein the cell is a human cell.

232. (New ) A mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide has a double stranded structure (dsRNA) comprising two separate RNA strands, and wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of at least a part of a target gene.

233. (New ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

234. (New ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length.

235. (New ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.